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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
October 10, 1998.

By Sunil Butt

4/a.
PL
11-10

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 10577-404-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Continuation)
application of:)
Thomas Collins, et al.) Examiner: Unk.
Serial No.:) Art Unit: Unk.
Filed: Herewith) PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
For: PUBLIC KEY CRYPTOGRAPHIC)
APPARATUS AND METHOD)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced continuation application, please amend the application as directed herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13, and add the following new claims.

Subj

14. A method for establishing cryptographic communications comprising the step of:

encoding a plaintext message word M to a ciphertext word signal C, where M corresponds to a number representative of a message and

$$0 \leq M \leq n-1$$